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said groove being formed to astride a cable connecting section having an inserting opening for inserting said terminal of said cable and said card accommodation.

REMARKS

This is in reply to the Examiner's Official Action dated March 13, 2003. By this Amendment, claims 1 and 4-7 have been amended, and claim 11 has been added to more appropriately claim the invention. Upon entry of the Amendment, claims 1-11 will remain pending. The above amendment with the following remarks are submitted to be fully responsive to the Official Action. Reconsideration of this application in light of these remarks, and allowance of this application are respectfully requested.

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I. Information Disclosure Statements

On February 28, 2003 and March 12, 2003, Applicants submitted two Information Disclosure Statements (IDSs) to bring several documents to the Examiner's attention. Applicants note that the Examiner did not indicate that she had considered either IDS in the March 13, 2003 Official Action. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner consider the listed documents and indicate that they were considered by making appropriate notations on the PTO Form 1449 filed with each respective IDS.

II. Rejection of Claims Under 35 U.S.C. § 112

On page 2 of the Official Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-10 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Applicants have amended claims 1, 4, 6 and 7 to correct the informalities noted by the Examiner. It is therefore asserted that the claims are no longer indefinite. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the rejections of claims 1 and 4-7 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. Applicants also request the Examiner withdraw the rejections of claims 2, 3, 5 and 8-10 as they now are no longer indefinite.

III. Rejection of Claims Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

On page 2 of the Official Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-2, 4-5 and 8-9 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,277,621 to Seto (hereinafter, Seto).

The present invention as recited in amended independent claims 1 and 4 is directed to a contact terminal and a card connector, respectively, comprising: a first

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connecting section for electrically connecting with an electrode pad of a cable by pinching said electrode pad between a plurality of forks in said first connecting section, said first connecting section being formed at one side of said contact terminal, and a second connecting section for electrically connecting with an electrode of a card by contacting a single side of said card, said second connecting section being formed at a second side of said contact terminal, continuous with said first connecting section.

The present invention as recited in new claim 11 is directed to a contact terminal comprising: a first connecting section for electrically connecting with a terminal of a cable while pinching said terminal, said first connecting section being formed at a first side of said contact terminal; a second connecting section for electrically connecting with an electrode of a card while being in contact with said electrode, said second connecting section being formed at a second side of said contact terminal; and a coupling section for coupling said first connecting section to said second connecting section, wherein: said coupling section is provided between said first and second connecting sections; and said coupling section is inserted into a card accommodation for accommodating said card in the inserting direction of said card to enter into a groove, said groove being formed to astride a cable connecting section having an inserting opening for inserting said terminal of said cable and said card accommodation.

Seto fails to disclose at least a capability to pinch the electrode pad between a plurality of forks in said first connecting section, nor does it disclose a second connecting section for electrically connecting with an electrode of a card by contacting a single side of said card. In Seto, the connector pinches the conductors of the cable

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between a contact arm of the terminal and the rear side of the connector housing. Also, the second connecting section in Seto contacts two sides of the card.

Anticipation under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) requires that each and every claim element be disclosed by a single applied reference. Seto does not teach each and every claim element of claims 1-2, 4-5, 8-9 and 11, and therefore, as a matter of law, cannot anticipate these claims. That is, Seto fails to disclose at least a capability to pinch the electrode pad between a plurality of forks in said first connecting section. It also does not disclose a second connecting section for electrically connecting with an electrode of a card by contacting a single side of said card. In fact, Seto teaches away from this capability when it discloses a terminal wherein a cable is inserted into a slot between a terminal arm and the rear side of the terminal housing. (See e.g., Fig. 5) In Seto, the cable is pinched between a terminal arm and a portion of the terminal housing, not between a plurality of forks. Seto further teaches away from the features recited in claims 1 and 4 when it provides that contact arms resiliently grip the pin terminals on the printed circuit board. (Seto at col. 3, lines 66-68.) In the claimed invention, a second connecting section maintains an electrical connection with an electrode of a card by contacting a single side of said card. Therefore, the rejection of independent claims 1 and 4 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as anticipated by Seto should be withdrawn. The rejection of dependent claims 2, 5, 8 and 9 should likewise be withdrawn as they now depend on allowable base claims. New claim 11 is allowable for the same reasons.

IV. Rejection of Claims Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

The Examiner rejected claim 3 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Seto in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,928,027 to Kunishi (hereinafter, Kunishi). Claim 3

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indirectly depends from allowable claim 1 and is allowable for at least that reason. According to the Examiner, "Seto discloses the claimed invention except for [a] coupling section [that] has coupling surfaces orthogonal to each other and coupled to the first and second connecting sections," and she cites Kunishi for allegedly disclosing this feature. The Examiner does not argue and Kunishi does not teach or suggest a terminal connector with at least the capability to pinch the electrode pad of a cable between a plurality of forks in a first connecting section, nor does it disclose a second connecting section for electrically connecting with an electrode of a card by contacting a single side of said card as recited in allowable claim 1, from which claim 4 ultimately depends. Therefore Kunishi fails to make up for the shortcomings of Seto. Applicants respectfully assert that claim 3 is allowable over Seto in view of Kunishi.

The Examiner next rejected claim 10 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Seto in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,511,349 to Ishikawa (hereinafter, Ishikawa). Claim 10 directly depends from allowable claim 4. The Examiner admits that Seto does not disclose an elongated type memory card and cites Ishikawa for allegedly teaching this feature. For the same reasons articulated with respect to the previous rejection, and by virtue of the dependency of claim 10 from allowable independent claim 4, Applicants deem that claim 10 is allowable, and therefore request withdrawal of the rejection of claim 10 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a).

V. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is submitted that the cited prior art fails to teach or suggest the Applicants' invention. Applicants submit that this claimed invention is neither anticipated nor rendered obvious in view of the prior art references cited against

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this application. Therefore, it is respectfully asserted that the present application is in condition for allowance and a notice to that effect is respectfully requested. However, if the Examiner deems that any issue remains after considering this response, he is invited to call the undersigned to expedite the prosecution and work out any such issue by telephone.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the claims by this amendment. The attached page is captioned "Version with markings to show changes made." Deletions appear as normal text surrounded by [] and additions appear as underlined text.

If any extension of time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 is required to obtain entry of this response, and not requested by attachment, such extension is hereby requested. If there are any fees due under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or 1.17 that are not enclosed, including any fees required for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136, please charge those fees to our deposit account 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: June 12, 2003

By: 

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 1 and 4-7 as follows:

1. (Amended) A contact terminal comprising:

a first connecting section for electrically connecting with [a terminal] an electrode pad of a cable [while] by pinching said [terminal] electrode pad between a plurality of forks in said first connecting section, said first connecting section being formed at one side of said contact terminal, and

a second connecting section for electrically connecting with an electrode of a card [while being in contact with said electrode] by contacting a single side of said card, said second connecting section being formed at [the other] a second side of said contact terminal, continuous with said first connecting section. *only*

4. (Amended) A card connector having contact terminals, comprising:

a plurality of contact terminals, each having a first connecting section for electrically connecting with [a terminal] an electrode pad of a cable [while] by pinching said [terminal] electrode pad between a plurality of forks in said first connecting section, said first connecting section being formed at one side of said contact terminal and a second connecting section for electrically connecting with an electrode of a card [while being in contact with said electrode] by contacting a single side of said card, said second connecting section being formed at [the other] a second side of said contact terminal, continuous with said first connecting section, *only*

a card accommodation portion in which said second connecting sections of said contact terminals are disposed, for accommodating said card [having said electrodes for said electric connection with said second connecting sections,]; and

a cable connecting section in which said first connecting sections of said contact terminals are disposed, having an insertion slot for allowing said [terminals of a] electrode pad of said cable to be inserted [for said electric connection with said first connecting sections].

5. (Amended) A card connector having contact terminals as defined in claim 4, wherein [in said contact terminal,] a coupling section for coupling said first connecting section to said second connecting section is provided between said first and second connecting sections.

6. (Amended) A card connector having contact terminals as defined in claim 5, wherein said coupling section of said contact terminal is held [while being inserted into] in a groove formed in said card connector, adjacent to [over] said card accommodation portion and said cable connecting section.

7. (Amended) A card connector having contact terminals as defined in claim 6, wherein said coupling section of said contact terminal is inserted into said groove in [said] a card inserting direction [of said card into said card accommodation portion].

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